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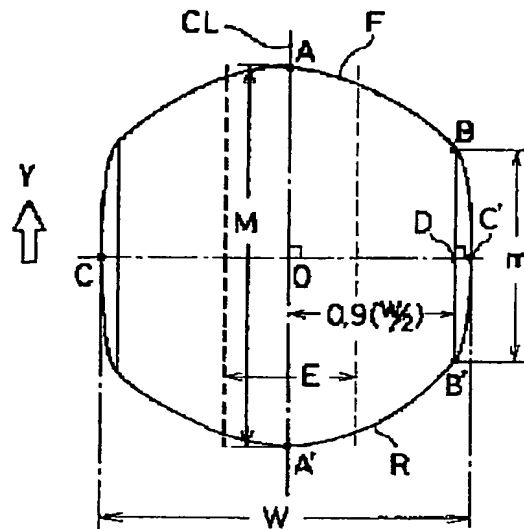
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TITLE : PNEUMATIC TIRE



ABSTRACT : **PURPOSE:** To enhance the wet performance by increasing a ratio between a maximum ground- contact length of a pneumatic tire having a shape, in which a circumferential length of the tire is maximum when it passes the centre of the ground-contact wound and it gradually becomes shorter toward both sides of the tire, and a ground-contact length at a position close to the outside of the tire and lessening a total ground contact part groove-area-ratio together with further lessening the groove-area-ratio at the central ground contact part.

CONSTITUTION: With regard to the ground contact shape of the tread surface of a tire, a ground contact length in the circumferential direction of the tire at the center O of the maximum ground contact width W is maximum M, while the ground contact length in the circumferential direction of the tire on both right and left part gradually becomes shorter. In this case, a ratio between the maximum ground contract length M and a ground contact length m in the circumferential direction of the tire at a position D, which is apart from the ground contact center CL toward both sides by 90% of the maximum ground constact width W/2, respectively, or m/M , is set at 0.65 to 0.80. In addition, the total ground contact groove-area- ratio of the tread surface is set at 20 to 50%, while a central groove-area-ratio in a central part region E corresponding to 40% of the maximum ground contact width W is made smaller than the total ground contact part groove-area-ratio. Thus, since water hardly enters the central part of the tread surface, wet performance of the tire can be enhanced.

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